Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

data storage means for storing application data concerning usage of said image processing apparatus so that rewriting of said application data is enabled;

control means for controlling an operation of said image processing apparatus based on said application data stored in said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores application data, which is used for updating, as update data, and for obtaining said update data;

data updating means for rewriting said application data stored in said data storage means to provide said update data obtained by said data acquisition means; and

acquisition method storage means for storing, in advance, an acquisition method designated for obtaining said update data,

wherein, when instruction information for instructing updating of said application data is entered in said image processing apparatus, said data acquisition means accesses said server in accordance with said acquisition method stored in said acquisition method storage means and obtains said update data.

2. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said acquisition method storage means stores setup data that are required to obtain said update data using said acquisition method designated in advance.

3. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said setup data includes an address for said server that stores the update data and an ID or a password for accessing said server.

4. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said acquisition method is one of a method using HTTP (Hyper-Text Transfer Protocol) and a method using FTP (File Transfer Protocol).

5. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said instruction information includes data type information indicating a type of said update data; and

wherein, at least based on one of: (i) the data type information included in said instruction information, (ii) identification data for said image processing apparatus that is stored in said image processing apparatus, said identification

data including one of a serial number unique to said image processing apparatus, a product number, a model name, a product version, a model version, and an application data version, said data acquisition means specifies update data stored in one of an HTTP server and an FTP server and obtains said specified update data from said one of the HTTP server and the FTP server.

6. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said acquisition method is a method using electronic mail.

7. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said instruction information is received from an external device connected to said image processing apparatus.

8. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

validity condition setup means for setting a condition for a validity term or a validity limit under which said data acquisition means obtains said update data or said data update means updates said application data; and

inhibiting means for, when said instruction information entered for said image processing apparatus does not satisfy said

condition designated by said validity condition setup means, inhibiting the operation of said data acquisition means for acquiring said update data, or of said data updating means for updating said application data.

9. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

validity condition setup means for setting a condition for a validity term or a validity limit under which said data acquisition means obtains said update data or said data update means updates said application data; and

instruction error notification means for, when said instruction information entered for said image processing apparatus does not satisfy said condition designated by said validity condition setup means, issuing a notification to a transmission source of said instruction information that said instruction information does not satisfy said condition concerning said validity term or said validity limit.

10. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said validity condition setup means designates said condition concerning said validity term or said validity limit one of: (i) based on validity information for said validity term or said validity limit included in said instruction

information, (ii) in accordance with an instruction received from an external device connected to said image processing apparatus, and (iii) an instruction entered using said operating means of said image processing apparatus.

11. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data acquisition means accesses said server by using said acquisition method stored in said acquisition method storage means, and obtains test data for a communication test.

12. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

error detection means for, when said test data are obtained by said data acquisition means, detecting one of an error that has occurred before said test data are obtained and an error in said obtained test data; and

communication error notification means for providing notification that said error has been detected by said error detection means.

13. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

data storage means for storing application data concerning usage of said image processing apparatus so that rewriting of said application data is enabled;

control means for controlling an operation of said image processing apparatus based on said application data stored in said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores application data, which is used for updating, as update data, and for obtaining said update data;

data updating means for rewriting said application data stored in said data storage means as said update data obtained by said data acquisition means; and

acquisition method selection means for selecting, from among a plurality of acquisition methods for obtaining said update data, an acquisition method to be used for the acquisition of said update data,

wherein, when instruction information for instructing updating of said application data is entered in said image processing apparatus, said data acquisition means accesses said server by using said acquisition method selected by said acquisition method selection means and obtains said update data.

14. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said acquisition method selection means designates setup data required to obtain said update data using said selected acquisition method.

15. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said setup data includes an address for said server that stores said update data, and a required ID or password for accessing said server.

16. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the acquisition method selection means designates said setup data based on one of setup data entered using an operating unit for said image processing apparatus and setup data entered using an external device connected to said image processing apparatus.

17. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

data storage means for storing application data concerning usage of said image processing apparatus so that rewriting of said application data is enabled;

control means for controlling an operation of said image processing apparatus based on said application data stored in said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores application data, which is used for updating, as update data, and for obtaining said update data; and

data updating means for rewriting said application data stored in said data storage means to provide said update data obtained by said data acquisition means,

wherein a plurality of acquisition methods for obtaining said update data are selectably prepared, in advance.

18. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

data storage means for storing application data concerning usage of said image processing apparatus so that rewriting of said application data is enabled;

control means for controlling an operation of said image processing apparatus based on said application data stored in said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores application data, which is used for updating, as update data, and for obtaining said update data; and

data updating means for rewriting said application data stored in said data storage means to provide said update data obtained by said data acquisition means,

wherein, when instruction information for instructing updating of said application data is entered in said image processing apparatus, said data acquisition means specifies update data, stored in said server, at least based on one of data type information which indicates a type of update data and which is included in said instruction information and identification information which is stored in said image processing apparatus and which identifies the image processing apparatus, and said data acquisition means obtains said specified update data from said server.

19. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said identification information includes one of a serial number unique to said image processing apparatus, a product name, a model name, a product version, a model version and an application data version.

20. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

data storage means for storing application data concerning usage of said image processing apparatus so that rewriting of application data is enabled;

control means for controlling an operation of said image processing apparatus based on said application data stored in said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores application data, which is used for updating, as update data, and for obtaining said update data;

data updating means for rewriting said application data stored in said data storage means to provide said update data obtained by said data acquisition means;

validity condition setup means for setting a condition for a validity term or a validity limit under which said application data is updated by said data updating means; and

inhibiting means for, when said condition set by said validity condition setup means is not satisfied, inhibiting the operation of said data updating means for updating said application data.

21. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

data storage means for storing application data concerning usage of said image processing apparatus so that rewriting of said application data is enabled;

control means for controlling an operation of said image processing apparatus based on said application data stored in said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores, as update data, application data used for updating, and for obtaining said update data;

data updating means for rewriting said application data stored in said data storage means to provide said update data obtained by said data acquisition means;

validity condition setup means for setting a condition for a validity term or a validity limit under which said application data is ~~updated~~ acquired by said data ~~updating~~ acquisition means; and

inhibiting means for inhibiting, when said condition set by said validity condition setup means is not satisfied, an operation of said data acquisition means for obtaining said application data.

22. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:

instruction error notification means for issuing, when said instruction information entered in said image processing apparatus for instructing the updating of said application data does not satisfy said condition designated by said validity condition setup means, a notification provided for a transmission source of said instruction information notifying that said instruction information does not satisfy said condition for said validity term or said validity limit.

23. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said validity condition setup means designates said condition for said validity term or said validity limit one of: (i) based on validity information for said validity term or said validity limit that is included in said instruction information, (ii) in accordance with an instruction received from an external device connected to said image processing apparatus, and (iii) an instruction entered at an operating unit of said image processing apparatus.

24. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus, which transmits, to an image processing apparatus that stores application data that concerns usage of said image processing

apparatus and that is to be rewritten, instruction information instructing acquisition, from a server, of update data for said application data and rewriting of said application data using said update data,

wherein validity data designating a condition for a validity term or a validity limit, for obtaining said update data or for updating said application data, are added to said instruction information and are transmitted to said image processing apparatus.

25. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

data storage means for storing application data concerning usage of said image processing apparatus so that rewriting of said application data is enabled;

control means for controlling an operation of said image processing apparatus based on said application data stored in said data storage means;

data acquisition means for accessing a server that stores application data, which is used for updating, as update data, and for obtaining said update data; and

data updating means for rewriting said application data stored in said data storage means using said update data obtained by said data acquisition means,

wherein, upon receiving an instruction to obtain test data for a communication test which are stored by said server, said data acquisition means accesses said server and obtains said test data from said server.

26. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:

error detection means for, when said test data are obtained by said data acquisition means, detecting one of an error that occurred up until said test data were obtained and an error in said obtained test data; and

communication error notification means for transmitting notification of said error detected by said error detection means.

27. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus, which transmits, to an image processing apparatus that stores application data that concerns usage of said image processing apparatus and that is to be rewritten, instruction information instructing acquisition from a server of update data for said application data and rewriting of said application data using said update data, said data processing apparatus comprising:

setup instruction means for instructing said image processing apparatus to instruct a setup of an acquisition method for obtaining said update data; and

data acquisition instruction means for instructing said image processing apparatus to obtain test data for a communication test.

28. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, which inhibits said data acquisition means from obtaining said update data, or said data updating means from updating said application data, while said image processing apparatus is performing another process.